

CHICO.

"The City of Roses" and its Surroundings.

A MOST EXCHANGING LOCALITY.

A Winterless Climate and its Causes—Inexhaustible Fertility of Soil and Uncollected Productions.

AN ATTRACTIVE FIELD FOR THE HOME-SEEKER.

Princely Estates—Extensive Agricultural and Fruit-Growing Interests—Fruitless Foothills—Orange and Lemon Culture.

In the valley of the Sacramento, the largest and best of the Pacific coast drainage basins, on the banks of two of the clearest crystal snow-water streams, in the openings of wide-branching giant oak groves, stands Chico, "The City of Roses." From her streets in the south can be seen the clear blue outlines of Mt. Diablo; in the west the rounded domes of the coast range; in the north Shasta's peerless cone rising out of the great valley and standing clear and sharp against the deep blue of the sky, and in the east the great Sierra Nevada range, uplifting itself to an elevation of 8,000 feet, a mighty barrier between the warm flower-laden valleys of the coast and the colder basins to the east.

In this vast amphitheater of surrounding hills and mountains is a land as rich as any in the valley of the Nile, the Po, or the Yangtze, and with a climate so warm, balmy and hospitable, that all the verdure of the temperate and semi-tropic zones finds a most congenial home. This region was naturally so rich and so beautiful that it extorted the most extravagant praises from the early Jesuit Fathers, from the first American explorers, and from the Argonauts in the first days of gold hunting.

The whole Sacramento valley has the air that was deposited in what was once a great lake, into which, for centuries, innumerable streams from all directions poured the rich weatherings and washings of the mountains and hillsides, laying up an inexhaustible store of fertile material for the uses of the grazier, the grain-grower and the orchardist. In no single spot of this wide valley did provident Nature deposit richer and more lasting stores of fertile material for all kinds of vegetation than here around favored Chico.

NATURAL PRODUCTIONS AND PIONEER IMPRESSIONS.

When the first explorers came they found the wild oats growing higher than their horses' backs; indigenous cover carpeting the ground in tangled masses, and great oaks with long-reaching arms extending shade and shelter. On these most luxuriant of nature's pastures herds of elk, antelope and deer grazed and fattened.

To the bold and adventurous American pioneers—Bidwell, Lassen, Farwell, Gridley and others—this seemed the one enchanting spot of earth in which to live, and here they made their homes and formed the first settlement of the upper Sacramento. The gold-seekers, coming to this coast "to make their pile and then return to their Eastern homes," saw the beauties and advantages of the locality, and when their "pile" was made they settled here and sent for their wives and children, or for the girls they had left behind them in the East, and here they lived to see the day when they were to bless the spot of destiny that led them to this spot.

THE VALLEY LANDS.

That portion of the valley immediately surrounding Chico runs from the bank of the Sacramento river, for a distance of ten miles, where it meets the lower Sierra Nevada, and gradually merges into its long, gently-sloping foothills and valleys. The same rich soil, the same great oak openings extend north and south for forty miles, giving an area of fertile soil tributary to the town of not less than 400 square miles, or 250,000 acres.

TO THE EAST, UP THE WESTERN SLOPES OF THE SIERRA NEVADA, for a distance of fifteen miles from the "golden belt" free from frosts, where the deep, rich valleys, sloping hill and mountain sides, with deep soils, nutritious grasses, swift, clear streams, and cold bubbling springs. Still higher on the mountain sides are the forest belts that darken the land with their dense foliage. In this frostless foothill belt, there are very many thousands of acres where beautiful homes can be made amid abundant fruits and flowers. In all it is estimated that there are 400,000 acres of land tributary to Chico.

THE CLIMATE.

THE CAUSES WHICH GIVES CALIFORNIA ITS WONDERFUL SEASONS.

To the tourist and the home-seeker, the climate of this portion of the State, situated between the 39th and 40th parallels of latitude, is unaccountable. That it is winterless, without snow or ice, is to them almost impossible to believe, while the country east of the Sierra Nevada, on the same latitude, has long winters, with snow, ice, and bleak winds. For the benefit of these new-comers the influences that make our climate so mild and favorable are here briefly but comprehensively given.

CLIMATIC CAUSES.

In all parts of the earth there are two great determining causes of climate—astronomical and geographical. The former of these are uniformly the same in all latitudes everywhere, while the latter are the modifying influences. It is to these last that we must look for the marked difference between our Pacific climate and that of the same latitude beyond the Sierras. The first of the geographical influences is the remarkably low elevation of the Sacramento valley, which is in marked contrast to most of the valleys of this continent. Sacramento city, 100 miles from the Golden Gate, still feels the tidal pulsations; and Chico, almost a hundred miles farther from the ocean, is less than 200 feet above tide water.

OCEAN CURRENTS.

The second cause is the ocean currents, that rise in the tropical regions of the Indian ocean, sweeping around the earth's great circle, wash the whole of this coast and temper the climate in the same way that the Gulf Stream modifies the climate of England and France.

MOUNTAIN BARRIERS.

The third and greatest influence, and the one that is almost entirely overlooked,

is the great continuous mountain wall that commences at the extreme western point of the peninsula of Alaska and runs south and along the whole coast of the continent, to and into Mexico. The extreme starting point of this great barrier is nearly 2,000 miles west of San Francisco, and it diverts all the air currents which come from the north and west, and keeps them east of the Arctic winds, and the presence of tempered winds from the heated ocean currents, that give the winterless climate along the foothills of the Sierras, a latitude that give us the orange, the lemon, the citron, olive and pomegranate, in place of the snow, ice and freezing blasts of the same latitude east of this great mountain barrier.

THE TESTIMONY OF PRODUCTIONS.

A more indisputable evidence of the climate of this section is in the character of the products of so many years that this production has passed from the domain of experiment to that of established fact. Oranges, lemons, olives, persimmons, and pomegranates have been successfully grown in many places, in and around Chico for the past ten years. All the tender vine and fruit trees of the south of France and Italy grow to perfection here, and in quantity and quality the yield are surpassed nowhere in the world.

TEMPERATE ZONE PRODUCTIONS.

Side by side with the semi-tropical products all the deciduous fruits flourish and yield abundantly. The apple, pear, plum, peach, cherry, apricot and nutmeg trees, side by side with the orange and lemon, are prolific and continuous bearers. This is the one spot where the vegetation of the cool temperate zone and of the semi-tropics meet on common ground and all that is essential to their perfect production.

FACTS AS TO TEMPERATURE.

It is an accepted opinion among people living in the north temperate zone, that any country which produces the orange and lemon must have an oppressive tropical heat. This is far from the truth, as here the extreme range of the thermometer is less than in other climates.

The temperatures of summer are never so high as they are in Quebec, where there is six months of winter. It is not believed that these having knowledge of such material, have in properly exposed thermometer any temperature higher than 100° Fahrenheit would be shown in summer. From observations made for nearly a third century, it is known that there have been no lower temperature in winter than 21° above zero.

NO SNOW NOR ICE—ECONOMY OF OUR CLIMATE.

In all that time there has been no fall of snow that has outlived a day's sun, and ice hardly ever forms. The Sicily lemon tree, one of the most delicate and sensitive of semi-tropical growths, geraniums and other tender flowers, live unprotected through the winters. There are no months, or weeks even, that the rain falls so as to drive people indoors. A few hours of rain comes, and then is followed by two or three days of warm, balmy, spring-like weather. The weather statistics show that in the year there are more than 200 perfectly clear days, and nearly 300 in which the sun shines portions of the time.

RAINFALL AND SEASONS.

The annual rainfall in the vicinity of Chico is about 24 inches, and the larger part of this comes in the autumn and winter months. What is usually called the "rainy season" generally commences in October, and enough rain falls so that plowing and seeding can be done. Even that time to April, and sometimes till May, there is rainfall. Through all these months, when the ground of the winter climate countries is covered with snow, and the streams are locked in ice, our fields are alive with busy workers. There is no such rainy season here as is known in some other countries. There are no months, or weeks even, that the rain falls so as to drive people indoors. A few hours of rain comes, and then is followed by two or three days of warm, balmy, spring-like weather. The weather statistics show that in the year there are more than 200 perfectly clear days, and nearly 300 in which the sun shines portions of the time.

SUMMER AND HARVEST.

About the 1st of May the rains are over, and then commences a season of cloudless days, that continues till the autumn rains return. June, July and August are the months when the grain is harvested, and during all that time the farmer has no apprehensions of injury to his hay or grain from rains. The grain is threshed, sacked and piled in the field, and hauled to market in September and the first half of October. There is no loss of time to the field worker in such seasons. In fact, there are no such seasons here as in winter countries.

OUR WINTERLESS WINTERS.

It is a misnomer to call a season "winter" that has no snow or ice; in which flowers bloom in the open air, the groves are made verdant by the song of birds, the streams alive with water-fowl. Children play the long day-out doors, all kinds of stock graze on green and growing herbage, and the fields are sown with plows, harrows and cultivators. There are only two seasons here—spring and summer. The rains make spring and the dry season produces autumn.

THE WATER SYSTEM.

THE RIVERS AND TRIBUTARIES OF THE GREAT VALLEY—ARTESIAN WATERS—ETC.

To the east, bordering the rich valley lands tributary to Chico, is the Sacramento river, which takes its rise in the centric circle of mountains at the head of the valley. Opposite Chico it is a clear mountain stream and navigable for large vessels. It washes the western border of the country tributary to Chico for a distance of forty miles. This forty miles of water front affords not only navigation but an abundance of water for stock feeding upon the rich pastures that adjoin the river. The soil of the bottom land that borders the river is so little above the river level, and the soil is such a light alluvium that the water of the stream percolates through it and keeps it moist and in fine condition for grain, grasses, fruit trees; and, in fact, all kinds of vegetation through the whole year. In addition to the great Sacramento, there is a

PERFECT SYSTEM OF CLEAR MOUNTAIN STREAMS.

Which come down from the Sierra Nevada. These are Deer, Spring, Mud, Big Chico, Little Chico, Edgar, Little Butte and the Butte creeks that flow down from the canyons of the great range, flow through the rich alluvial lands and join their waters to the Sacramento on the way to the Golden Gate. The waters of these streams are all as clear as crystal, and they furnish an inexhaustible supply for all agricultural purposes. In the foothills, every canyon, gorge, and, has its stream of water, and along all the foot of the mountains wherever there has been fractures in the rock strata, springs of pure water burst forth. Wells of cold, lasting water can be had anywhere on the upper plains by digging twenty feet.

WELLS AND ARTESIAN WATER.

No effort to find flowing artesian wells has as yet been pushed to success, but wells have been sunk from thirty to forty feet in depth to a thick gravel stratum, and an inexhaustible supply of water was found that rose in the wells to within eight or ten feet of the surface. From these wells it has been found impossible to exhaust the flow of water by any steam pump. The pumps of the Chico Water Works have a capacity of 10,000,000 gallons per day, and even with this enormous power they are unable to lower the water in these wells. If irrigation should be found useful in any kind of agriculture it may be hereafter introduced into this

State, steam pumps could flood the land from these wells. There is now little doubt that flowing wells could be had in any part of this county at comparatively small expense. This present writing there is a new artesian well near by in the Sacramento valley, that flows twelve feet above the ground, and the depth of the well is less than 1,000 feet. There is, however, no part of this coast that is irrigated so little as the country around Chico. The supply of artesian water has been spoken of to show that the supply is ample and can be had at little cost and ever needed. The water supply of the Chico district can be summed up and concluded by saying that no part of this coast has a more abundant and purer supply of pure, cold, water from rivers, creeks, springs and wells than is found here.

BUILDING MATERIALS.

Extended Lumber Supply, Brick Clay, Building Stone, Etc.

The region under consideration presents a marked contrast to the treeless prairies and plains east of the Sierras. The Chico plains, as has been said, were originally covered with great oak growths. In places these growths were tangled forests, as dense as any that marked the Atlantic slope in aboriginal days. In other places the growths were less dense, and there were only giant oaks dotting the land. These trees were so large and wide-branched as to be remarkable. General Bidwell has oak trees on his princely ranch that have been pronounced by traveled Englishmen as larger in the trunk, and longer branched, than any they had seen on the famous estates of England. These immense tree growths cover nearly all the valley country near Chico. Along the streams there is a great variety of trees—cottonwood, sycamore, box elder, willow, maple and others. In the foothills there are oaks, maples, cottonwoods and willows; and on the great mountain sides, at a higher elevation, there are forest belts of pine, spruce, hemlock, fir, cypress and cedar that clothe the land, and that will furnish lumber for buildings and fencing for centuries to come. There is not a spot in the Chico district but what has timber enough for fuel and for fencing.

EVERYWHERE IN THIS VICINITY there is an abundance of clay of first-class quality for brick-making. Even underlying Chico, the clay can be had for brick manufacture. Many millions of brick have been made since the American occupation, and the time that has elapsed has proven their durable character. The abundance of cheap fuel growing in the surrounding forests makes cheap brick buildings.

BUILDING STONE.

The foothills back of Chico, within easy hauling distance, furnish deposits of fine sand and limestone for buildings and finishing material for brick buildings. The

Good roads make driving and riding popular, which means good, fine-blooded and stylish horses, and well-built and handsome carriages. These in turn make a market for the produce of the breeding farms and the productions of the carriage shops, and these industries support others, and so on until every interest in a community feels the benefits flowing from these graded and gravelled roads. In connection with these highways there are free and substantial bridges across all the streams, large and small.

STAGING FACILITIES.

In addition to the means of transport-



ODD FELLOWS' TEMPLE.

ation by rail and river, there are eight stage lines that run from Chico to the outlying country. There is a daily line southwest, across the Sacramento river to Willows, a distance of fifty miles; a daily line southeast, to Oroville, twenty-four miles; two dailies west, to Orland, in Colusa county, a tri-weekly southwest, to Colusa, the county seat of Colusa county, sixty miles distant; tri-weekly northeast, to Prattville, Plumas county; tri-weekly east, twenty-eight miles, to Powelson, Butte county, and a tri-weekly to Cherokee and Deadwood, Butte county, thirty miles.

In the stage lines that run in and out of Chico aggregate more than three hundred miles, and employ a large number of men and horses. These lines are

requisite to the maintenance of animal life. The indigenous grasses were rank, juicy and nutritious. There were wild oaks, bunch varieties of native clover, bunch, fescue and grama grasses. There was clear cold water in abundance, and oak groves for shade, and along the streams almost impenetrable thickets of sycamore, poplar, cottonwood, willow, grape and nutmeg trees, and the clinging vines that gave shelter. In a few years the plains that now produce their millions of cereals were covered with herds of wild horses, herds of long-horned cattle and flocks of sheep. So favored were the climatic conditions, so rich and abundant the grasses, that the products of these pastures were in demand in all the markets. Butte became noted for the speed and endurance of its horses, for fat, juicy beef, and fine wool and good mutton. It was a paradise for herders and breeders. Their stock was their pride and boast, and these led to improvement in breeds. The wild horses gave way to better running and trotting blood, the long-horns were superseded by Ankouans, Devons and Herefords, and the kempy-wooled Mexican sheep were supplanted by the hardy Merino, the plump Southdown, and the big Cotswold and Leicester with their luscious fleeces. This stock spirit has survived all the changed conditions that have overtaken agriculture, and these same herds owners still love and raise good horses and cattle. Competition has led to the introduction of the best strains of blood that have sprung from the loins of old Messenger, the strains that have been in the front in every contest on the track and road for the past century, and to the introduction of the best blood descended from a colt since the first Arab horse was a saddle. Many tens of thousands of dollars have been expended for fine horses in the past thirty years, and the same care has been taken to improve blooded cattle, sheep and swine. There are some ranches that have been largely devoted to stock breeding, but generally the stock men have adopted the migratory plan with their animals.

In the spring, as soon as the grasses in the foothills and higher mountains have grown sufficiently, the stock is taken to the Sierras or the Coast Range, and there in the higher altitudes and cooler temperatures it is grazed till autumn, when it is brought back to the valley ranches. In this way all the stubble and straw of the great wheat ranches are utilized. An account of the stock ranches of the Chico district would be too extended for this article. A brief mention of one or two of them will be sufficient to illustrate this industry.

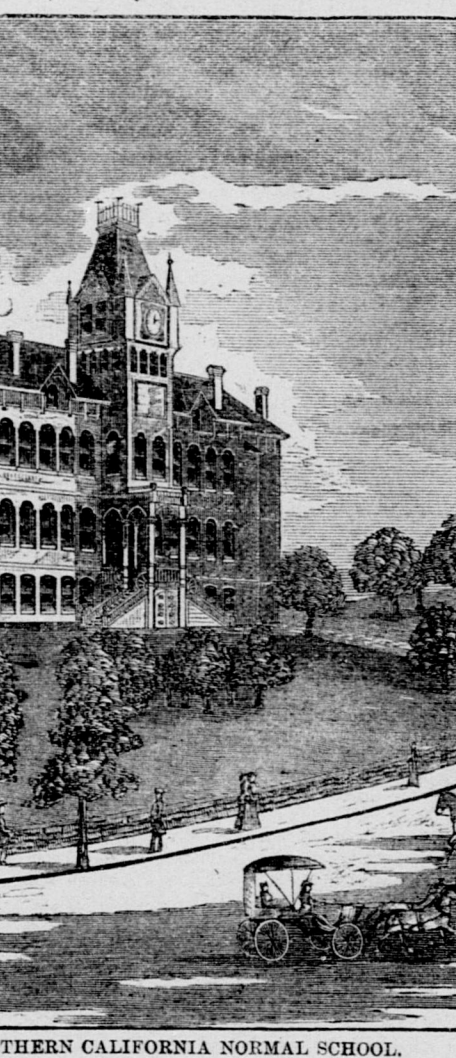
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS.

Fruit and Grain of All Kinds—Stock-Raising—Big Wheat Ranches—ETC.

The range of the productions of the soil of this section is a very wide one, and embraces every product of the temperate and semi-tropic zones. There may be other favored spots of earth that have the same happy blending and merging of temperatures, which gives so many products of the soil, but they are few indeed. Here wheat

FINE STOCK AND GRAIN RANCH.

L. H. McIntosh, one of the most intelligent breeders, has an extensive ranch, mostly devoted to grain-raising. Seven hundred acres are devoted to pasture. He has fifty head of work horses and mules, which he breeds and breaks. In addition to these he has thirty head of



PROPOSED STRUCTURE FOR THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NORMAL SCHOOL.

an important factor in the business of the place. Commercial travelers from this stage center go to a country almost as large as some of the smaller States of the East. The passenger travel from this great area converges here to take the railway trains north and south, and every train brings its quota to go out into this region.

THE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE.

Of these coaches carries one back to the old stage coach era, when these vehicles were the only public means of conveyance, and the driver on his seat the monarch of all he surveyed, or thought he was. The business created and supported by these

STOCK RAISING.

In the early days of the American occupation, the stock raisers of the Chico district were men of the old school, who combined the best blood, both thoroughbred and trotting. He has several youngsters of great promise, which will undoubtedly give good account of themselves in speed contests hereafter. Mr. McIntosh has alfalfa and native clover pastures, good water and shade for his stock. He also has a large breeder and grazer of fine sheep. His sheep pastures are in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, where he has 6,000 merino sheep. Mr. McIntosh's tastes are for the best, and he proposes to increase his stock and pastures, and decrease the areas of his wheat fields.

A LEADING STOCK FARM.

D. M. Reavis is perhaps the largest stock breeder in Butte county. His home ranch embraces 3,000 acres of pasture. On this he has 1,000 horses and mules, 200 head of full-blooded or graded cattle, and 2,000 hogs. For years he has expended large sums for the best breeding stock. The blood of Reavis' Blackbird, with a record of 2:22, is the basis of many of his brood mares, of which he has 300 head. These combine the blood of Boston, Lexington, Glencoe and many other stout strains of gallantness with that of Hambletonian, Clay, Mambrino and Grand Bahaw. He is now breeding to Blackbird, Monroe Chief and Steinway for the track and road, and for the purposes of the plow and wagon. He has a thousand acres of alfalfa and two thousand acres of native grasses. For rich grasses, ample shade and abundance of clear, pure water, his pastures are unsurpassed in the world.

CEREAL PRODUCTIONS.

As the grazing followed the golden era, so in the transition grain-growing followed grazing. As the means of transportation multiplied and quickened, and the markets of the world were brought within reach, grain growing increased, the plow invaded the grazing grounds of the valleys, and the flocks and herds were driven to the subjugation of the soil of the pastures, although gradual, was rapid, and in twenty years after the first furrows were turned three-fourths of the land of the valley and plains was under tillage. The thick forest trees disappeared, leaving only scattered representatives; the tangled thickets were grubbed out, and in their place were raised golden grain. So far as the eye could reach, from being an importer of breadstuffs the State has become the largest wheat-producing region in the Union and a powerful factor in the cereal markets of the world. The Chico district is

ONE OF THE BEST WHEAT AND BARLEY SECTIONS.

Of the coast. Nowhere is there a higher yield and nowhere a surer crop. These assertions are supported by the demon-

strated facts of a third of a century's tillage. The altitudes of this valley section is so deep, so light and porous that it seems to be capable of self-drainage in case of an excessive rainfall, and of self-irrigation from the percolating water in the underlying gravel stratum below when the rainfall is deficient. The exact statistics are wanting, but it is safe to say that in the country tributary to Chico there are 100,000 acres of land capable of growing wheat and barley, with a crop of more than twenty bushels to the acre, or nearly twice the average yield of the whole United States. The annual yield is more than 2,000,000 bushels, or 60,000 tons, or 6,000 ten-ton carloads, or 300 twenty-car trains.

CELEBRATED RANCHES.

Some of the Finest and Most Extensive Ranches in the World.

The policy of Spain and its successor, Mexico, in their efforts to settle this country by granting great tracts of land to individuals, has left immense land holdings in different parts of the State. Of these Butte county had several, some of which have been subdivided and are now held in much smaller tracts. Some of them, however, still remain intact. Of these, there is the "Basqueño" grant, situated in the northern part of Butte and the southern part of Tehama counties. Of this tract, there are 10,000 acres, and it is now owned by Senator Stanford, and is a part of the justly celebrated Vina tract, which has been donated to the Leland Stanford, Jr., University. This seventeen thousand acres of rich, deep alluvium, and are mostly devoted to grazing and grain-growing, for which purposes there is no better land in the world.

RANCHO CHICO.

The Rancho Chico, owned by General Bidwell, contains 10,000 acres, and probably, as a whole, there is no finer tract of land of equal extent on this earth. It has a frontage of four miles on the Sacramento river, and extends back into the foothills of the Sierras. More than 18,000 acres are rich, deep alluvium, and were originally covered with giant timber growth, mostly oaks. The largest of these oaks are of the size of the coast redwood, and are of the variety of the whole valley portion is one great oak park in appearance.

The whole of this vast body of land is in good and fertile subdivisions, and is devoted either to grain-raising, grazing, vegetable and fruit-growing. In the subdividing and clearing great care has been taken to preserve the most beautiful places in their natural state for drives and walks. There are as many and as beautiful drives in the grounds of this "Rancho Chico" as in any of the great country estates of the United States. There are 300 acres of grapes in bearing, 100 of table grapes and 200 in Muscat or raisin grapes. There are also a great apple, peach, plum, apricot and cherry orchards. The cultivation of all the small fruits is extensively carried on, and vegetables are grown for the small army of men required to cultivate so large a tract of land, as well as for sale. There are extensive nurseries where all kinds of fruit trees are grown for planting on the ranch and for sale. There are several thousand acres of luxuriant pasture, 750 of which is alfalfa. Two or three hundred acres of alfalfa are annually being added. On this ranch are 250 head of work stock and brood mares, 600 head of Great Grey hogs and 6,000 sheep. Great care has been taken to have only the best stock, and the result is readily seen in driving over the place.

ENORMOUS FRUIT TREES.

I have spoken of the immense size which the forest growths have attained on these rich alluvial deposits. The growths of fruit-bearing trees are equally astonishing. There are several cherry trees, which in several years that are of an extraordinary growth. They are more like forest trees in size than like cherry trees. One in particular attracts the eye, its trunk is three feet in circumference; it is sixty feet from the ground, and some of the branches are twenty-five feet in length. These big cherry trees, which are made up of cherries that three years ago it was determined to ascertain how much it produced. The fruit was carefully picked and weighed, and the result showed 1,750 pounds. After a sight of this cherry monarch the enormous yield is not so much to be wondered at. The wonder is that there is a soil to grow such trees. The apple, peach, plum, apricot and cherry trees show great and healthy growth. General Bidwell has a model residence only a fourth of a mile from Chico, under the great oaks and the cherry trees, surrounded with all of the beautiful that refined taste and skill could suggest.

AN INDIAN VILLAGE.

There is one spot on this great place, more than passing interest—the Indian village built by General Bidwell for the aborigines who have always lived on this place. Instead of driving them away, as so many other people have done, he provided for them comfortable homes and work at good wages. Every effort has been used to encourage them to make advancement. A school-house has been built and I believe a teacher hired for them and paid by General Bidwell. This place is used as a place of worship, and has been provided with an organ. They have been taught music, and some have become quite proficient. Mr. Bidwell has devoted much time to this work, teaching them to read, to have a brass band, and play very creditably. They are peaceable, well behaved, temperate and industrious, and I am told, they are a credit to the benefactors—General and Mrs. Bidwell.

RANCHO DE FARWELL.

Another great Mexican land grant was that of the Rancho de Farwell. It was originally 22,000 acres in extent, and adjoined the Rancho Chico, and was, if possible, as rich and fertile. It has been subdivided, and now the largest holding is the 8,000 acres allotted to inspecting the stock of Mr. Reavis. The balance of this tract is held in lots from 320 to 2,000 acres. Opposite the stock farm of Mr. Reavis is the model farm of E. C. Reavis, comprising 1,500 acres, devoted to grain, grazing and fruit-growing. There are many other subdivisions of this tract that have been converted into valuable crops of such the farms of Colonel Wm. Hawkins and Dr. J. W. Allen. Mr. Allen has large vegetable gardens and beautiful orchards. The most of this great tract is still used for the production of cereals.

RANCHO AQUAS FRIAS.

This grant is south and east of Chico, and contains 26,700 acres. It is owned by Judge and Mrs. Pratt, and under the active supervision of R. C. Goodrich, a gentleman entirely competent for such an immense undertaking. It is all dark alluvial soil, much the same in fertility and character as the Rancho Chico. Butte creek, a clear stream, makes thirteen miles of the east boundary of this tract. The land is leased in one and two section tracts. More than 15,000 acres is in summer-fallowed grain, wheat and barley. To work this large body of land eighty-five eight-mile or horse teams are busy plowing at certain seasons of the year.

As showing the remarkable fertility of this soil, sections have averaged fifty-four

bushels of wheat per acre in more years than one, and the whole grain, averaged at this ranch this year will reach 400,000 bushels, or 25,400,000 pounds or 11,700 tons, or 1,170 ten-ton carloads of wheat. One thousand men are employed in harvest time, several steam threshers are required to thresh the grain, and long lines of six and eight-mile teams are used for two months hauling it to the railroad or river. There are large numbers of fine-bred horses, cattle and hogs on this ranch, and all kinds of fruit, including oranges and lemons, are grown. There are buildings enough on this place to make a respectable town. Thirty-two houses, barns, sheds, granaries, stores and shops for repair of machinery and harness are scattered over the great place. It is a princely estate, and when divided will make homes for hundreds of families. Thirty miles of graded roads now in the process of building place to facilitate hauling of produce to market.

THE PARROT GRANT.

Is another of the vast landed estates inherited from the Spanish land-grant system. It is southwest of Chico, ten miles from Chico, and contains 18,000 acres. It is nearer the Sacramento river than the Rancho Chico, and the character of the soil is the same, deep, fertile, alluvial loam as the Rancho Chico, the Reavis, Reynolds, Hawkins and other places. It was once covered with gigantic oak and other trees, and is now a beautiful place of rich soil. Little Chico creek and other small, clear streams run through it, and the Sacramento river washes the western portion of the grant, and the other great ranches, mostly devoted to grain-raising. As a rule, the land is summer-fallowed and a crop raised only every other year, and there are large bodies that raise good crops every season by winter sowing. There is this season about 11,000 acres of grain—wheat and barley—and it is very promising and is expected to yield an average of twenty-five bushels to the acre, which will aggregate 27,500 bushels. There are now thirty-eight teams plowing for summer-fallow, which will be ready to sow in the fall. This place is cultivated by the managers of the estate of the late owner, and none of it is rented. All of it is great, fertile tract of land is well adapted to alfalfa, fruit and vegetable-growing, and, if devoted to such diversified production, would make homes for some 600 or 700 families and be infinitely more useful to human society than now.

THE GRIDLEY TRACT.

This Mexican grant, lying between Chico and Biggs, in Butte county, comprises 10,000 acres, and is a beautiful and fertile soil on the sun shines upon. It is a part of

THE MAGNIFICENT DONATION MADE BY SENATOR STANFORD.

To the Leland Stanford, Jr., University. It is one of the vast landed estates inherited from the Spanish land-grant system. It is southwest of Chico, ten miles from Chico, and contains 18,000 acres. It is nearer the Sacramento river than the Rancho Chico, and the character of the soil is the same, deep, fertile, alluvial loam as the Rancho Chico, the Reavis, Reynolds, Hawkins and other places. It was once covered with gigantic oak and other trees, and is now a beautiful place of rich soil. Little Chico creek and other small, clear streams run through it, and the Sacramento river washes the western portion of the grant, and the other great ranches, mostly devoted to grain-raising. As a rule, the land is summer-fallowed and a crop raised only every other year, and there are large bodies that raise good crops every season by winter sowing. There is this season about 11,000 acres of grain—wheat and barley—and it is very promising and is expected to yield an average of twenty-five bushels to the acre, which will aggregate 27,500 bushels. There are now thirty-eight teams plowing for summer-fallow, which will be ready to sow in the fall. This place is cultivated by the managers of the estate of the late owner, and none of it is rented. All of it is great, fertile tract of land is well adapted to alfalfa, fruit and vegetable-growing, and, if devoted to such diversified production, would make homes for some 600 or 700 families and be infinitely more useful to human society than now.

THE GRIDLEY TRACT.

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THE FOOTHILLS.

The fertility of the Sierra foothills is too well known to need extended notice; but any article of Chico and the surrounding country would be incomplete unless it included the foothills that are tributary to her, and which, in the immediate future, will be an important factor in her trade and manufactures. These tributary foothills comprise an area about fifteen miles long, and from five to ten miles wide, and extend from the great timber belt, and even among these forests there are openings that grow hardy fruits and vegetables, and grasses grow luxuriantly.

A TRUE FERTILE BELT.

And are especially adapted to fruit culture. The soil and climate are so favorable, and the supply of water so abundant, and the region so healthy and fertile, that it is sought for homes. The soil is a rich, and it is truly the poor man's land. Every thing raised there has a market at home among the miners, grazers and lumbermen. The scenery is beautiful, and the temperatures are mild, and there are more clear days than in the coast range. On these sunny slopes, in the shade of mountain trees, by clear running brooks, or cool springs, there will be thousands of prosperous homes, where, if there is not great wealth there will be plenty and contentment.

THE CITY OF ROSES.

One of the Most Enchanting Places of the Coast.

In the center of this great garden spot of the coast, in a beautiful opening of the great forest oaks, on the banks of two clear, rapid, mountain streams, surrounded by a vast amphitheater of hills and mountains, is Chico, "the loveliest city of the plain." To know the place you must see it. No pen can portray the fertile plains, rich with the promise of a golden harvest; the old oaks, growths of un-speakable centuries, the clear, cool streams, bordered with tangled vine and primroses, the semi-circle of mountains around, the Sacramento waters divide the green valley, gleaming in the sun like a broad river, with its banks and islands in avenues of elms, poplars, maples, cypresses, acacias, magnolias and palms, whose branches interlace and form a green arch over the streets, the houses embowered in roses, honeysuckles, geraniums, and an infinite variety of blooming flowers, the groups of healthy, happy children, and the warm welcome smile to greet the stranger. All this is beyond the power of pen and pencil.

GROWTH AND POPULATION.

Chico is little more than twenty years old, almost a minor in age, but a busy, well-developed youth. The population is now 5,000, all

What They Were, and What They Will Be in Our

SALE TODAY!

10-cent Indigo Blue Prints, 5 cents per yard.
25-cent Ladies' Embroidered Hemmed Handkerchiefs (slightly soiled from being in show window), 14 cents.
20-cent Turkish Bath Towels, 13x36, 10 cents.
81-100 Ladies' Lace-trimmed Cape edge, 30 cents.
20-cent Ladies' Hemmed Handkerchiefs, 10 cents.
40-cent Ladies' Balbriggan Hosiery, 25 cents.
83-50 Imported Colored Check 11-in. Table Covers, 8-4, 82.
41-40 Ladies' Jerseys, all-wool, 98 cents.
50-cent Euro Fiches, 25 cents.
45-cent Ladies' Lisle Thread Hose (new shades), 25 cents a pair.
9-cent White Victoria Lawn, 5 cents per yard.
8-cent White Corded Piques, 5 cents per yard.
50-cent Ladies' Muslin Chemises, 25 cents.
35-cent Ladies' Extra-large White Lawn Aprons, lace-trimmed, 25 cents each.
60-cent Children's White Pique Dresses, 47 cents each.
50-cent Boys' Suits (medium light), 75 cents.
10-cent Broadened Lace Handkerchiefs, 5 cents per yard.
10-cent Figured Nain's Veiling (cream color), 7 cents per yard.
500 Cents of Dress Goods, Gingham, Muslin, White Goods, Lawn, etc., at about one-half the regular price.

Gents' Furnishing Goods

FOR THE PRICE THAT YOU HAVE EVER SEEN BEFORE.
50-cent Gents' Gauze Merino Shirts, 25 cents.
50-cent Gents' Light-weight Balbriggan Shirts, 25 cents.
75-cent Men's Summer Balbriggan Shirts and Drawers (extra quality), 50 cents.
75-cent Seamless and Fancy striped Cotton Socks, 10 cents.
75-cent Gents' White Unlaundried Shirts, double back and front, linen bosoms, 50 cents.
75-cent Men's Fancy Calico Shirts, separate collars and cuffs (nicely made), 50 cents.
81 Gents' Checked Travelling Shirts, fancy corded fronts (imitation of French flannel), 65 cents.

Clothing in Our Sale!

50-cent Boys' Linen Pants, 20 cents per pair.
81-50 Boys' Jackets (medium light), 75 cents.
Boys' Suits (house style), plaid, 81, 80, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

Shoes in Sale To-day

82 Ladies' Full-scalloped, Kid Foxed Button Shoes, 81 25.
81 75 Ladies' Kid Button Shoes, 81 25.
81 50 Men's Black Oxfords (extra heavy and good), 75 cents.
81 50 Men's Check Diagonal Slacks, all wool. On account of the pants being new and having the big "Duck" word call them "old style", we have cut them in price from \$20 to \$12.50 per suit.

MILLINERY ATTRACTIONS, AT CUT PRICES!

Ladies' Popular Sun Hat—"The Lake George"—in White, Tan and Brown, 35 cents.
Children's Trimmed Hat—Fancy Mixed Band, 25 cents.
Black Hats, 15 cents.
Variety of High Crown, Narrow Brim, Stylish Hat, in Tan, Brown and Black, 25 cents.
The "Lotus"—High Crown Sun Hat, in White, Tan and Brown, 35 cents.
Misses' and Children's White Head Braids, in all the new shades, 45 cents.
Stylish Trimmed Sun Hats, in White, Tan and Brown, 25 cents.
Ladies' Trimmed Dress Hats, at CUT RATES.

RED HOUSE.

Nos. 714 and 716 J street, and 713 and 715 Oak Avenue, Sacramento.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS, ETC.

METROPOLITAN THEATRE.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.
FARWELL PERFORMANCES OF
Pyke Opera Company!
Grand Matinee To-day,
—THE—
"Queen's Lace Handkerchief!"
—POPULAR PRICES.—
SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 7th.
POSITIVE ASSURANCE OF
Miss Jennie Winston,
"The Oath of Love!"
SUNDAY EVENING, MAY 8th.
Grand Farwell Performance,
—THE—
"The Oath of Love!"
Admission, 25 cents; Ladies, Free.
Seats secured without extra charge, 40c-75c.

BASEBALL!

Fifth Game of California League Series.
AGRICULTURAL PARK,
SUNDAY, MAY 8th.
PIONEERS, of San Francisco,
—VS.—
ALBANS, of Sacramento.
Game called at 2:15 P. M. Sharp.
Admission, 25 cents; Ladies, Free.
Seats secured without extra charge, 40c-75c.

Liberal Lecture!

Dr. J. L. YORK, THE NOTED LIBERAL,
and now in this city, returned from Australia,
and will give his famous Lecture on
"The Oath of Love!"
at the Pioneer Hall, 720, Broadway, and a Peep into
Hell, on
SUNDAY EVENING, MAY 8th.
Admission, 25 cents.
At Pioneer Hall, Doors open at 6:30; Lecture,
7:30. Admission, 25 cents.

—FIRST ANNUAL—

PICNIC

Sacramento Lodge, No. 11, Order of
Hermann Sons,
SUNDAY, MAY 8, 1887.
—AT—
Richmond Grove.
Tickets, 25c; Ladies, 10c.
All kinds of GAMES will be had, and a good
BAND OF MUSIC has been engaged.

BELL & CO., AUCTIONEERS,

At a sale of the contents of the late
BAND OF MUSIC has been engaged.

TO-DAY

At a sale of the contents of the late
BAND OF MUSIC has been engaged.

DR. LEPPER'S

At a sale of the contents of the late
BAND OF MUSIC has been engaged.

Mountain Tea!

At a sale of the contents of the late
BAND OF MUSIC has been engaged.

KIDNEY & LIVER TROUBLES,

At a sale of the contents of the late
BAND OF MUSIC has been engaged.

Purifying the Blood!

At a sale of the contents of the late
BAND OF MUSIC has been engaged.

BERLIN,

At a sale of the contents of the late
BAND OF MUSIC has been engaged.

SEALED BIDS

At a sale of the contents of the late
BAND OF MUSIC has been engaged.

FOR THE SPRINKLING OF THE UPPER

At a sale of the contents of the late
BAND OF MUSIC has been engaged.

D. Mc Kay,

At a sale of the contents of the late
BAND OF MUSIC has been engaged.

MANUFACTURER AND DEALER IN HAR-

At a sale of the contents of the late
BAND OF MUSIC has been engaged.

STEINWAY & SON

At a sale of the contents of the late
BAND OF MUSIC has been engaged.

REMOVED.

At a sale of the contents of the late
BAND OF MUSIC has been engaged.

DR. H. H. PIERSON, DENTIST.

At a sale of the contents of the late
BAND OF MUSIC has been engaged.

his NEW DENTAL PARLOR, 611 F STREET.

At a sale of the contents of the late
BAND OF MUSIC has been engaged.

CARD OF THANKS.

At a sale of the contents of the late
BAND OF MUSIC has been engaged.

AT A MEETING OF THE HIBERNIA

At a sale of the contents of the late
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